

Eco Smart Home Services by R. Pelton Builders, Inc.

Greetings!

We are very concerned for our employees if section 132 of Public Act 11-80 is not removed and I hope you will take a second to read why.

Why we need to have section 132 removed?: Because it will cause me to lay off about 16 people come January

My name is Stephen Pelton and my wife Rebecca (The R. of R. Pelton) and I run Eco Smart Home Services by R. Pelton Builders which is a company that does energy audits for the utility companies through the Home Energy Solutions program as well as low-income weatherization for the Community Action Agencies. We have crews which also install windows, blow in cellulose insulation and perform all aspects of residential home improvement.

If section 132 can not be adjusted or removed my company is going to have a big problem come January 1. The 500K cap on oil measures will cause us to lay-off 1/2 of our staff because 1/2 the homes in CT are oil and they will no longer be able to be serviced by the Home Energy solutions program even though they pay into it every time they pay an electric bill.

It's discriminatory against oil customers who pay into the fund also. As discussions are taking place about a permanent fix to help oil customers next session, we are looking to buy some time by removing section 132 so we can continue to service oil customers while the final 'deal' is being done with the oil funding.

If we have to lay people off come January, and then the oil funding is established and oil is re-instated, we will have to find employees who are BPI certified, lead safe certified as well as background checked. We've had to ramp up and ramp down for the past year due to inconsistent funding and it's very hard to run a business that way.

Removing this cap just seems to be a no brainer and I hope that we can add this to the job bill because it will definitely cause jobs to be lost and remove any chance of weatherizing 80% of the homes by 2030 if the cap is not removed. There are also a whole bunch of people downstream from the HES program that benefit from incentives. HVAC contractors, insulation contractors, electricians, plumbers etc..etc..all would be affected if this section isn't removed.

There are quite a few groups who support removing this cap because it just makes sense to do so. Based on intensive conversations now going on among representatives of the home performance industry, leading environmental groups, utilities, community action agencies, and deliverable fuel dealers, I believe I can say with confidence that there is extremely broad based support for removing section 132 at this time.

If you have any questions, please call me either at the contact information below or on my cell phone at (860) 655-3195. My business is in Berlin and my home is in Newington but we have employees from all over the state and service every town.

I don't know if you need to know my home address, but it is: Stephen and Rebecca Pelton, 36 Boulevard, Newington CT, 06111

Thanks for your time

Oh, one last thing, when I said I would have to lay people off, it would be 16 people who average about \$20 per hour and if they lost their job there is no guarantee I could get them back, especially since they would be making a lot on unemployment. And on that point, constantly laying people off will increase my unemployment compensation for the next 3 years.

Warmest regards,

Stephen and Rebecca Pelton